The Common Cause
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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The Advantages of Open-Air Life.

Our paper, this week, deals with several questions relating to the welfare and upbringing of children. A correspondent writes on the need for educating and developing our boys and girls during the critical years of adolescence, and of making ample provision for out-door games. Mrs. Stocks describes an interesting experiment in the upbringing of little children, and Mrs. Thoday pleads for the endowment of childhood, in order to check the terrible infant mortality directly resulting from the conditions in which the mother lives, and to lighten the burden upon the State of the many children who become enfeebled physically, mentally, and morally through those same conditions.

BARBARA STRACHEY.

MARY FISHER.

PETER THODAY.

MARY GERALDINE O'MALLEY.

The accompanying photographs show the children of three members of the N.U. Executive, and the little niece of another member, enjoying the freedom of open-air life.

During the last few years the importance of keeping children as much as possible out of doors has become much more widely recognised. Not so very long ago the tendency of the careful parent of the well-to-do classes was to keep delicate children in warm, stuffy rooms, and not allow them out unless it was fine. Now these little ones are in the open-air almost as much as the children of the very poor, who are sent into the streets to play as soon as they can toddle, and thus gain sufficient vitality to survive the conditions of their home life.

Delicate children in the elementary schools have also, in some districts, the advantages of open-air classes, and at the meeting of the Conference on Educational Ideals held last week at Bedford College, a scheme for open-air nurseries was put forward by Miss Margaret Macmillan. There must be thousands of open spaces in London, she urged, which owners might be induced to lend for temporary buildings, in order that this experiment might be tried. Such open-air nurseries will not do away with the necessity for housing reform; but it may be a long time before a thorough scheme for improving housing conditions can be carried out. Meanwhile, any plan for enabling children to live as much as possible out of doors should be welcomed in the interests of national health.

Political Notes.

Representation of the People Bill.

The Bill has now been carried in the Commons as far as Clause 26. On August 15th, there was a long discussion on Clause 18, and the arrangements for absent voters; the desire of the house being that the best possible method should be found for registering the opinions of those absent on active service. The House accepted the principle of proxy voting, but details were left to the Report stage.

Clauses 19 and 20, dealing with deposits of money to be made by candidates for election, and Clauses 21, 22, and 23, dealing with returning officers, were added to the Bill.

Clauses 24 and 25, which deal with election expenses, were discussed on August 15th and 16th. Clause 25, in its original form, provided (1) that a person shall not incur any expenses on account of holding public meetings, or issuing advertisements, circulars, or publications for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate at a Parliamentary election unless he is authorised in writing to do so by the candidate, and the expenses are duly returned as part of the candidate's election expenses.

(2) If any person acts in contravention of this Section he shall be guilty of a corrupt practice.

On the motion of Sir George Cave, the words in Sub-section (1), "and the expenses are duly returned as part of the candidate's election expenses," were deleted, on the ground that they put the penalty on the wrong person. Anyone might incur an expense with the authority of the candidate, and then, if the candidate failed to enter it in his return, find himself liable to prosecution. A sub-section was afterwards added to Clause 25, putting the onus of returning all authorised expenses upon the candidate.

It was explained that outside organisations might do propaganda at elections to promote *their own* objects.

Clause 26, which reaffirms the acts concerned with Parliamentary practices passed since 1872, was also added to the Bill.

The clauses of the Bill that have been dealt with by the Committee of the House of Commons, have now been printed as amended, and can be obtained from the National Union Office (price 2d.).

The Dilution of Labour.

On August 15th and 16th, the Munitions of War (Re-committed) Bill was considered in Committee. On the motion of the Minister of Munitions, it was agreed that Clause 1, extending labour dilution to private works, should be omitted. "It is valueless," said Mr. Churchill, "without agreement, and unnecessary should agreement be reached." Mr. Churchill explained that the Government were not giving up dilution because they thought it unnecessary. They regarded its extension as a matter of urgent importance. "We need aid," he stated. "We need reinforcements of labour to deal with important developments in our munitions preparations for next year." It was with regret that he found himself unable to secure this relief, but he was satisfied that it was impossible to force this question through without leading to friction that would have lost the Government more than they could otherwise gain.

The Abolition of Leaving Certificates.

The second important point of the Bill was the abolition of leaving certificates, which are such a fruitful source of discontent, both among men and women workers. Mr. Churchill explained that these could not be repealed until another grievance had first been dealt with—that of skilled men employed at time-rates in teaching or supervising others, and finding newcomers, whom they themselves had trained, earning much higher wages on piece-rates; but he hoped satisfactory arrangements would be completed in a few weeks. If the leaving-certificate provisions were abolished while this anomaly remained unredressed he was advised the result might be a serious migration from the higher ranks of labour into less highly skilled but more highly paid forms of labour.

Further Safeguards for the Workers.

Clause 3 was agreed to, giving the Minister of Munitions power to extend the awards given to majorities of workers in any trade to the whole trade, and also clauses to prevent the cutting of piece-rates, and the penalisation of workmen for belonging to trade unions or taking part in trade disputes. The clause, doubtless, applies also to women, though they are not specifically mentioned, and it is certainly needed for their protection. The Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Anderson, in welcoming these proposals, urged that there should soon be full examination into all the causes of disaffection and unrest among munition workers, and Mr. Wilson expressed a hope that the Government would see their way to appoint a small Committee who understood the needs, views, and aspirations of the working men, who could advise on these matters. He suggested that some arrangement should be made, in considering causes of discontent, to induce the larger societies to recognise that the smaller societies and the smaller sections of workmen have rights as well as the members of the larger societies.

It is also very necessary to induce the large societies to recognise that women workers have rights.

The Grille.

On August 15th, the House of Commons divided, without any discussion, upon a supplementary estimate of £5 for the removal of the Grille from the front of the Ladies' Gallery of the House of Commons, and the expenditure was agreed to by a majority of 164 to 18. The ventilation of the gallery, and the comfort and powers of sight and hearing of "the ladies," will be greatly improved by this daring innovation, which *The Times* called "a domestic revolution," and we welcome it heartily for this reason. We welcome it heartily for another reason also. The Grille—put up, no doubt, with excellent intentions, artistic or chivalrous (or perhaps for the greater security of honourable members from the disturbing influences of female charm)—has grown to be a symbol of the political position of women which has amused many and exasperated more, and its removal comes at a fortunate time. We are grateful to Sir Alfred Mond for the perseverance with which he has attacked this relic of the past, and we are sure that the 250 wives of members of Parliament who recently petitioned their husbands on this subject will join us in our thanks.

There was only one thing that could be said for the Grille, and no doubt it was said freely. Hampering as it was for serious hearing or attending, it was "A Privilege." Frivolity could go on with a great deal of impunity behind its sheltering bars: "ladies" could fidget and chatter and fan themselves, and the stony rigidity of the Strangers' Gallery need not be observed. Very similar privileges are conferred by disfranchisement, and it is with relief that we see them begin to disappear. We need not be afraid that foolishness and frivolity will (even within the precincts of the House of Commons) become obsolete with the Grille, nor that fans and fashions will be abolished because women get the vote. But we can hope with increasing confidence that folly will gradually cease to claim and to receive political privileges because it is feminine folly, while in the far-distant future perhaps merit may claim and may obtain political recognition, even though it is feminine merit.

Women as Solicitors.

The Solicitors (Examination) Bill was considered in Committee on August 16th, read a third time, and passed. An Instruction, down in the name of Mr. Dickinson, empowering the Committee to include in the Bill provisions enabling women to enter for examination to be admitted as solicitors, and to be admitted to practice in the profession accordingly, was ruled out of order by the Speaker. So, too, was an Instruction in the name of Mr. Hills, that would have merely empowered the Committee to enable women to enter for examination.

Major Hills appealed to the Government to give a day in the Autumn Session for the Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, pointing out that the depletion in the ranks of men in the profession must be filled up by women, and that no one could become a practising solicitor unless he had served in articles for three or five years. Even if the bar were removed now, it would be a long time before women could practise, and it was therefore urgent that it should be done at once. If the matter was left over till after the war, there would be a serious deficiency.

The Solicitor-General refused to take the Bill up as a Government measure, maintaining that it was not an emergency Bill, and was highly controversial.

Adjournment of the House.

The Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Corn Production Bill, the Munitions of War Bill, and a number of other measures. The House stands adjourned until October 16th.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill, introduced by the Home Secretary earlier in the year, has aroused very deep interest and strong feeling on a question which had hardly troubled the minds of the present generation of women. To many, the campaign against State regulation of vice, and the memory of Josephine Butler, were as much a part of ancient history as the struggle over the first Reform Bill. The reopening of the question found far too many women unfit to give a considered judgment on a subject, distasteful in itself, and outside the experience of the majority; but on one point at least the lesson had been fully learnt, and 1917 found women sufficiently united against re-introduction of the medical examination of prostitutes to ensure the speedy withdrawal of this proposal.

The Bill passed through Committee stage, and emerged in better shape, owing to the efforts of the chief women's societies, which, during many weeks, considered and fought point after point in detail, splendidly supported by enlightened opinion within the House of Commons. Quite late in Committee stage, and largely owing to the influence of a group of women, was added a clause of a highly controversial nature. This clause, No. 3 of the Bill as amended, evoked a storm of disapproval from many organised bodies of women, and received so much criticism in the debate on the Report stage that it has been found necessary to re-commit the Bill in respect of this clause, which will also be amended drastically. The opposition on this clause, and the congestion of Parliamentary business, have caused the Bill to be hung up, and its fate is still insecure. A very strong deputation waited on the Home Secretary a week since, and it is understood that, though not unanimous as to the merits of Clauses 3 and 5, the deputation were in sympathy with the principles underlying the Bill, and urged that it should be carried into law. But there is also a very strong body of opinion believing that those parts of the Bill which meet with general approval will be dearly bought if accompanied by the provisions contained in Clauses 3 and 5.

Putting Clauses 1 and 2 in the briefest terms, they provide that the consent of a young person under the age of sixteen shall be no defence to a charge of indecent assault, and that reasonable cause to believe that a girl was over sixteen shall be no defence in cases of seduction. The time for taking proceedings against the offender in these cases is increased to twelve months. The two clauses thus embody reforms which have long been desired in the interests of young girls.

Under Clause 3 it is proposed to order detention in an institution for girls who, being common prostitutes, are under eighteen. This will save them from the repeated short sentence of imprisonment, found to have such a demoralising effect. It will make it possible to give vocational training if institutions can be adapted for this purpose, and the assistance from public funds which is promised will largely solve the difficult question of expense. All social workers would welcome a proposal which would give an opportunity for reformation to young girls, and would prepare them for a better mode of life; but it is impossible to believe that morality can be induced by increasing the penalty on the woman and leaving the man untouched, thus increasing that difference in moral standard between the sexes which lies at the root of the question. No reform which emphasises the guilt of the woman and ignores the guilt of the man can be in the interests of true morality. The fact that the woman makes a continuous practice of immorality, and that the man may be a frequent or an infrequent offender, must not be allowed to obscure the question of their *equal* responsibility.

But this is not the whole danger. There is at present no legal definition of the words, "a common prostitute," and magistrates have complete latitude in deciding what evidence is to be taken on this point. Unfortunately, a practice is growing up, with which the Home Office has shown itself unwilling to interfere, of deciding the question by obtaining medical evidence as to the state of health of the prisoner. It appears, then, that Clause 3 brings us perilously near the examination of prostitutes and the detention for considerable periods of those who are found to be suffering from venereal disease, if they are or appear to be under the age of eighteen. Even looking at the clause from the most favourable aspect, it seems doubtful if compulsory detention will effect any real reformation of character, and will be found in practice, to be less demoralising than a sentence of imprisonment, or that the officials of Rescue Homes will maintain the beneficial influence over the girls due to the voluntary system.

Clause 5 makes it an offence to communicate venereal disease by means of sexual intercourse; and here again it is certain that the law will chiefly be put into practice against women. If it is desired to make vice safer for men by removing women suffering from venereal disease from the streets to suffer a penalty of two years' imprisonment, this clause may be approved; but this is a point of view with which few women are in sympathy. While everyone must realise that the wilful communication of venereal disease is a serious moral crime, it will probably remain among those crimes with which the law can never deal directly without injury to the often innocent victim. True reform lies along the path of an equal moral standard and a more enlightened public opinion.

If the introduction of the Bill has done nothing more, it has at least awakened the consciences of women to the injustice of the laws against solicitation, and it must be hoped that the movement for a law against molestation, more equal in principle and administration, will be continued until crowned with success. Organised women will be invited to give an opinion on these laws, and also in favour of voluntary rather than compulsory methods of moral reformation at the meeting of the National Council of Women in October next.

Rosamond Smith.

Officers for the W.A.A.C.

While the rank and file of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps are to be recruited in future through the Labour Exchanges, which are busy adapting their machinery to deal with their new duties, officers for the Corps are to be enrolled at Devonshire House. Women of tact and good education are wanted as Unit administrators, responsible for the welfare and discipline of groups of from 50 to 300 girls, and for various administrative and executive duties. Quartermistresses are also required to undertake the catering, and other responsibilities, for huts or hostels. These will be trained under Army Quartermasters before commencing duty. The salary of a Unit administrator is £150 a year; Deputy or Assistant Administrator, £120; Quartermistress, £150. Quarters will be provided, but a small sum weekly will have to be paid for food.

Pensions Officers.

We have had many enquiries as to the posts of Pensions Officers, which we announced some weeks ago. Application for these should be made to the Civil Service Commissioners, Burlington Gardens, W.

War-Time Replacements.

Tables published in *The Labour Gazette* show that since the war 1,256,000 men have been replaced by women, up to the end of April.

In industries there have been 438,000 replacements, in commerce 308,000, in Government establishments 187,000, 83,000 in the Civil Service, 64,000 in transport, 48,000 in Finance and Banking, 35,000 in hotels, public-houses, cinemas, theatres, &c., 32,000 in agriculture (exclusive of part time and occasional workers), and 20,000 in professions.

Joint Standing Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies.

A deputation from this Committee, which included Miss Chenevix (Irishwomen's Reform League), Mrs. Kingston (Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation), Mrs. Stephen Gwynn (Catholic League for Woman Suffrage), Miss Alice M. Stack (Church League for Woman Suffrage), and Miss Mellone (Belfast Suffrage Society), waited on Sir Horace Plunkett, Chairman of the Irish Convention, at Trinity College, last week. The object of the deputation was to urge the importance of the recognition of the citizenship of women by the co-option of a woman on the Convention, and further to press for the inclusion of the enfranchisement of Irishwomen in any scheme for the future government of Ireland.

Teachers' Salaries.

On the Committee appointed last week to deal with the salaries of Secondary School teachers, only five out of twenty members are women, a very small representation considering that the number of men and women are almost equal. It will be remembered that there is the same inequality of representation on the Committee lately appointed to deal with the scale of salaries for elementary school teachers.

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A Prophecy and Its Fulfilment.

"Let the community of the realm advise, and let it be known what the generality, to whom their own laws are best known, think on the matter. They who are ruled by the laws know those laws best, they who make daily trial of them are best acquainted with them; and since it is their own affairs which are at stake, they will take more care, and will act with an eye to their own peace. . . . It concerns the community to see what sort of men ought justly to be chosen for the weal of the realm." The quotation, dating from a poem of the time of Simon de Montfort, is so old as to be almost respectable, yet so long has the plant been in its growth, that only to-day are we approaching the time when its fruit will be ripe for gathering, so that the words still strike on the ear with their old inspiration and challenge to adventure. For never yet has the whole community of the realm taken council; of those who have made daily trial of the laws, the majority have had no opportunity for advising as to their framing and execution. With whom has the blame rested? In the first place, with those who ruled, but undoubtedly also with those who were ruled. In the days of those early Parliaments there were towns which cared so little for the privilege of a voice in law-making that they did not trouble to obey the summons to send a representative to Westminster, and even to-day we see the same spirit surviving in a few who resolutely oppose their own enfranchisement. If the world moves slowly, it is because the majority are slow, and because over against the ambition and aggression of the few must be set the lack of initiative of the many. Yet it does move, and the aspirations of those who, seven hundred years ago, asserted the right of the community to decide on its own laws, and to choose its own rulers, are slowly reaching their fulfilment. It concerns the community; let us see to it, therefore, that the community should be one trained and fitted for the work. This is the next and the most urgent step to be taken. The community with the power at last within its grasp, needs, in the first place, to turn its attention to its own training. "It is provided in the essence of things," says the modern poet of democracy, "that from any fruition of success shall come forth something to make a greater struggle necessary." There can be no sitting down, no resting on past achievements; the victory of democracy lays a foundation-stone, indeed, but the building which will rise on that foundation has yet to be planned. It is time, then, to set about training the architects, and that training, both of the present and especially of the younger generation, lies largely in the hands of the women of this country. There is to be no room in the community for the apathetic and the indifferent, for the woman of leisure whose idleness brought no contribution to the general well-being. One and all are responsible, "and since it is their own affairs which are at stake, they will take more care."

The war has taught thousands of idle women the satisfaction that lies in honest work; it has in many cases improved the conditions and wages of others who knew only the wretchedness of sweated labour. A beginning has been made, and it rests with the generality to see that there is no going back. The sweated worker should, in the future, have at her back the educated woman, who has learnt for the first time the drudgery of monotonous daily work, even under good conditions, and who, from that experience, has learnt to sympathise with all toiling women. Only the best of conditions, the best of housing, the best of education, are good enough for the community that is to be, and that community will have the power to see to it that things are so ordered that laws to effect the necessary reforms are carried out, and that all have the opportunity to become worthy citizens of a great commonwealth. It is of the first importance that so many of the women who are to be admitted to citizenship are the mothers in whose hands lies the upbringing of the next generation. Learning themselves their honourable and responsible position in the State, they can impress that knowledge on their children, and can thus ensure that the country whose defence has cost so heavy a price shall be a country truly worth defending.

"Let the community advise"; not on the old lines of class or of party interests, but on the broad new lines of the interests of the whole nation. Democracy is a great experiment, and it will be on its trial. Where all other forms of government have failed, it must succeed, and it can only do so through the citizens whom it must train. If the wisdom of one man could save a city, surely "a multitude of wise men is salvation to the world."

V. E.

The Critical Years.

[From A Correspondent.]

It is generally hoped that the enfranchisement of women will introduce a new spirit into politics, and from one point of view the present time is particularly favourable to that influence. The atmosphere of the party system has created the habit of considering problems, not as a set of facts to be controlled or reformed by the will of society, but as a balance of social or political forces. The war has largely destroyed that tradition, for millions of people who have passed through a revolution have become impatient of those methods. There is a new sense of reality in the world. With that new sense inspired by the war and its terrible sacrifices, and with a new electorate comparatively free from hampering traditions, we may hope for a new outlook in life and a new temper in politics.

An example of the survival of the wrong spirit is to be found in the new Education Bill, which contains a number of admirable reforms, but is disfigured by one serious weakness. It is agreed that the age of adolescence, both for men and women, possesses an importance never appreciated in the past. In the light of modern research it is scarcely an exaggeration to say that the years between fourteen and eighteen are the decisive years, and that the consequences of neglect or ill-treatment in that period of growth are far more serious and enduring than at any other time. Now how have we addressed ourselves to this problem? We appoint a Committee which takes evidence and discusses the question, and treats it almost throughout as if it was a question, in the language of the old economists, of what industry can brave. One witness, a Minister of the Crown, who belongs, in spirit, to the beginning of the nineteenth century, warned the Committee that "if the Government proposed compulsory part-time day-classes for six hours a week up to the age of sixteen or eighteen, following on a leaving age of fourteen, there would be serious and determined opposition from the worsted industry." Mr. Illingworth apparently thinks that the children in the worsted mills belong, in some way, to the industrial capitalists, and that their claim to be educated is conditional by the demands of the industry in which they are employed. This is just how the opponents of the Factory Acts regarded the boys and girls in their mills. The Committee, having heard all this evidence, proposed that these boys and girls should have education for eight hours a week during forty weeks of the year, and into those eight hours are to be crowded vocational training, physical training and games, and general education. This painfully modest programme has been incorporated in Mr. Fisher's Bill, and a Minister who is a distinguished scholar and a distinguished teacher, defends this inadequate measure, while admitting that on educational grounds he is dissatisfied with it.

This surely is the wrong way of approaching the question. We have to ask ourselves not whether industry will suffer if we educate our children, but what is the right way of bringing up boys and girls in order to produce strong, healthy, and happy men and women. With this in our minds, we shall consult first of all doctors and educationists. A writer like Dr. Stanley Hall, President of Clark University, is a more important witness than a cotton-spinner or a worsted-spinner. We consult the cotton-spinner in his place, but his place is not the first place. If we say that the first thing to consider is the convenience of an industry, we mean that certain boys and girls are not to be treated primarily as human beings. And when we read Dr. Stanley Hall's two volumes on "Adolescence," or when we consult such books as Sir Thomas Oliver's book on "Diseases of Occupation," or the reports of the Committee on Physical Deterioration, we realise that the problem of educating and developing our boys and girls during these years is a problem of the first importance. We ought at once to set our best-trained minds to work upon it.

It appeared from the tables published by the Committee on Physical Deterioration that there is a great difference in height and weight between children brought up in the country and children brought up in the town, and between children who go to work and those who remain at school. What does

this difference mean? It means that in one case the growing boy or girl receives enough nourishment in the form of food, sleep, good air, and games to do two things, repair waste, and build up for the future; whereas in the other case they only receive nourishment enough to repair waste. The full consequences are not seen at the time; they are seen later in premature old age and failure of power comparatively early in life. This is not a condition that a self-respecting society can disregard. Two important truths that bear upon it have lately been brought out. The first is that modern industry, unlike many of the older industries, and unlike agriculture, has a bad influence on health; it is wearing to the nerves, and it develops certain muscles too much and other muscles not enough. The second is that games are infinitely more important than we used to suppose. They serve a real function in developing mind as well as body. The most ample provision for games during adolescence is a vital necessity if we are to have a healthy people. They ought to be so arranged as to counteract the evils of industrial life.

There are many men who have never known what health was until they left the mill for the Army; and everybody has been struck by the extraordinary influences of open-air life on physique, even in cases where men have been subject to bad conditions. There is no reason why that healthy life should not be the normal state, if a nation is prepared to put the human claims of men and women, boys and girls, before the claims of wealth and the supposed needs of industry. And the men and boys who have died in the trenches, and the women and girls who have toiled at the lathe, have not given their lives or their health for a civilisation that puts no value on human life and human happiness.

Mr. Fisher tells us that public opinion would not assent to a larger scheme, and that if reformers want to press for something better, they have his best wishes. Let Mr. Fisher see that the nation is told the truth, that it is told what this cruel sacrifice of the promise and happiness of its youth means, and we have no fear of the result. If we really mean to reconstruct society in the spirit of the ideals for which we have fought, we shall see that every boy and girl has half the week for education and games, that every town has its proper playgrounds and swimming-baths, and that our industrial power is based not on sweated child-labour, but on the health and intelligence of the nation.

The State, the Mother and the Child.

Should equal pay be given for equal work? If so, is it reasonable to expect a man's wages to cover the upbringing of his children? And how does this affect women's position in the home?

It has appeared to me for a long time that a great confusion of mind has prevailed on the subject of the maintenance of the family. The old position was that a man's wages should cover the maintenance of his family, while a woman had no one to maintain, and therefore her wages need do nothing of the kind. We have seen the change of mind which has followed on the realisation that many women have persons dependant on them, and that a small personal wage was thus insufficient for them. This is one of the many proofs of the common sense of the demand for equal wage for equal work.

Equal wage has long been given for equal value to men, and has not depended on whether they are married or unmarried. If it were not so, it is clear that the employer would seek out the unmarried and pay him less in order to obtain cheaper labour. It is not really a fact, then, that men are paid a greater wage because they have families. There is another fact which ought to be faced, and that is that even the greater wage which is on the whole paid to men, whether married or unmarried, is not for the large majority of industrial and agricultural workers sufficient for the maintenance of a family in comfort and decency. The labour required of the wife and mother in caring for home and children, housework, washing, cooking, sewing, tending babies, is too great; and present social arrangements offer hardly any assistance to her, even when pregnant or nursing. Such work is often too much for the woman who is a clever domestic organiser; and, contrary to common expectation, brilliance in domestic organisation is not necessarily so much more usual among women than brilliancy in business organisation is among men. To some of us who realise the work required because we have had, at any rate sometimes, to perform it, the prospect of such unremitting toil is appalling, and in most cases it cannot but result in a state of mental stagnation which is good neither for the mother, home, nor child. How can a woman so occupied with a family of young children have time or energy for that mental activity which those who understand the education of the young tell us is most important in dealing with them in their earliest years? Before a child goes to school at all, its mental habits are largely formed; and they have depended on its mother, working in these conditions.

With such things in mind, it is clear that even a wage which is sufficient for the maintenance of the family is not sufficient to pay for help in washing, cleaning, or sewing, or to send the children sometimes to a Nursery School, or pay to have them taken out, thus giving the mother a little respite. The disabilities of the mother thus extend through many grades of society, and it is difficult to see that the man's wage could ever pay for what is needed if a high standard is to be maintained. One alternative is to give help in kind to the rearing of children, such as free crèches, nursery schools, home helps, &c. This appears far less desirable than to afford means to a mother to pay for such assistance. I cannot see that this pay, which would be a direct children's pension, should be included in the man's wage. His wage should cover his own maintenance, and be sufficient to pay for the doing of all work which each human being brings into the world. Before marriage this is done by somebody; afterwards, generally by his wife, whose maintenance, if she does this work, or superintends it, is very justly her right. But when the children come, and bring, along with much joy, also much mental care and responsibility, should the whole financial responsibility of them also fall on the parents? I think not. The difficulties under present conditions are too great, and the State is too directly concerned with the result. This principle is already recognised as regards the income tax; it is not always realised that this is what is implied in the relief from paying income tax afforded to men with incomes between £120 and £700 a year for each child, £25 free of tax.

There should be no charity about such a scheme. I have tried to show that it would be best for parent and for child. Let us now look at it from a point of view of the State.

There is a terrible infant mortality directly resulting from the conditions under which the mother lives, and many children whose condition becomes enfeebled, mentally deficient, and immoral become chargeable to the State. What the State wants are healthy citizens, and it would be much wiser and cheaper to pay to each child a regular income, of which the mother would be the trustee, than to lose so many when young, and be charged with the resulting feeble ones later.

Such endowment of childhood should free the mother to choose her own sphere; she would not then be forced into industry to obtain a wage. At present many mothers are both in receipt of a separation allowance and a wage. After the war, in most cases, their husbands' wage will not equal the sum derived from both these sources, and many of them, in order to keep up the standard of family life, will be forced into industry. There will be many employers who wish to retain women in industry; and the combined results of these forces are likely to induce women who would prefer to remain in their own homes to continue to work outside, while at the same time undermining their health and usefulness by doing the double work entailed by the home as well. I maintain that women should be free to choose, and should be helped in their work as mothers by a direct endowment of childhood, the State helping them because it is to the advantage of the community to do so.

M. Thoday.

The Caldecott Community.

Some six years ago, in a small day-nursery in St. Pancras, an educational enthusiast called Miss Leila Rendel opened a kind of kindergarten class for the elder children, the "ex-babies," too old to be left unoccupied, too young to be turned over to the elementary schools. As time went on, the class outgrew not only its quarters, but also its original functions. That is to say, the nearer its members approached school age, the more reluctant grew its leader to abandon them to the large classes and stereotyped teaching of the L.C.C. So in 1912, the day-nursery class became a full-fledged nursery school, with premises of its own, and Miss Rendel, now joined by a second educational enthusiast, Miss Phyllis Potter, set to work to hammer out a more sympathetic form of school life than that into which the "ex-babies" would automatically have drifted.

For six years the Caldecott Community, as it is now called, has maintained its existence; and during that time, in

the words of one of its own annual reports, "the school has grown up with its children." Frankly, it has been from the first an experiment, and an exceedingly tentative one: indeed, were it not for a suggestion of inhumanity in the expression, one might refer to it as a sort of "educational laboratory." Perhaps the last phase of the Caldecott Community is the boldest experiment of all. During the past few years it has become increasingly obvious to the two Directors that the most ideal management of school hours is at best a compromise with the dirt and noise and congestion of city slum life. They have, therefore, after superhuman efforts for the accumulation of funds, uprooted the school from South St. Pancras and transplanted it, together with twenty of those children with whom it has grown up, to Charlton Court, East Sutton, Kent, where it has flourished since the spring of 1917 as a boarding-school for working-men's children, at a cost of 5s. a week, or less, according to the income of the parents. And among the forces which have led to the materialisation of this idea has been the practical advice of the parents themselves.

The Caldecott Community has been described as a tentative experiment; perhaps it could be more nearly described as a quest. It is not, for example, an experiment in a definitely formulated system such as Mr. Homer Lane's notable application of child self-government at the Little Commonwealth near Evershot. Miss Rendel and Miss Potter have studied many systems, have been profoundly influenced by many systems, but so far it cannot be said that they have consistently adopted one. Perhaps the dominating influence on their methods has been that of Mme. Montessori; for instance, her apparatus has been used in the school from the first; freely chosen occupations have been substituted wherever practicable for the conventional class teaching. In fine, there is a general atmosphere of individual liberty about the whole school which suggests a strong flavour of Montessori. And yet one meets on occasions a distinct suggestion of quite un-Montessorian and almost old-fashioned discipline.

Obviously the Directors of the Caldecott Community are still feeling their way; and from a somewhat superficial observation it would seem as though no method is too revolutionary or too conventional for open-minded consideration or tentative application. Their quest is, of course, the old educational quest for the Heaven-sent system which shall combine free play of individual initiative with the practical give-and-take of corporate life and with the mental equipment which a modern State demands of a child leaving school. It is a quest which needs careful steering between the Scylla of anarchy and the Charybdis of unreasoning discipline. And it is because the two Directors of the Caldecott Community do not yet profess to have plotted the exact course of that narrow way that they differ from many of the pioneers of educational experiment.

Nevertheless, this absence of dogma in no way implies absence of positive result. During six years of service the Directors have learned from their children a number of concrete lessons. They have learned, for example, that a school can be run, at reasonable cost, with a limited staff, and with the maintenance of a standard of conventional education in no way inferior to that of the L.C.C., on a basis of far greater individual liberty than the average County Council or middle-class elementary school dreams of They have learned that a normal child, if required to render account of the spending of its time, may be left safely and advantageously to its own individual initiative; and therefore we find the members of the Caldecott Community chosing their occupations from hour to hour (it is unnecessary to use the word lessons, for under such a *régime* the line between work and play becomes a shadowy one), and recording their activities in their diaries for the instruction of the teachers. And, in addition, they have learned the necessity for a supreme authority (here they seem to differ from the complete self-government of Mr. Homer Lane), and for that background of old-fashioned discipline referred to above.

Mary Stocks.

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

PILCHER RESEARCH LABORATORY.

Applications are invited for a limited number of places in the PILCHER RESEARCH LABORATORY attached to BEDFORD COLLEGE for Women. Places are available for post-graduate work in Science or in Arts, preference being given to research in Science, and, at the present time, to any investigation connected with the War.

Applicants must state their qualifications, the nature of the research, and the period for which application is made.

Further information may be obtained from the Principal,

BEDFORD COLLEGE, REGENT'S PARK, N.W. 1.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospitals.

For months past, an occasional telegram and a few isolated letters, sometimes of very old date, have been the only news that has reached us of our Galician hospitals.

Dr. Atkinson writes, on July 9th:—

"Our hospital is receiving the English and French wounded from armoured-cars and aeroplanes on this front."

Three of our nurses (Misses Denholme, Cordner, and Egerton) have just arrived in England, and have much to tell us. They had left Zaleshchiki before the enforced retreat, and have therefore no recent news of our Unit there, but they had seen the Podgaitza Unit on its arrival in Petrograd, and had heard from them that their retirement took place at four hours' notice. All our beautiful hospital equipment has fallen into enemy hands, and the *personnel* would inevitably have shared the same fate, but for the British armoured-cars, the Commandant of which, hearing that they had no transport and no chance of getting away, took command of the whole Unit, and transferred them and their baggage to Proskuroff, where the railway officials courteously gave them a railway-carriage to Kieff, and thence to Petrograd. The Commandant was also sending a car off to the Zaleshchiki hospital, which is only 120 miles away, so we feel confident that we shall shortly hear of their safety also, especially as they had ample warning of the approach of the enemy, and had plenty of horse transport. The Zaleshchiki contingent consists of Dr. Hall, Nurses Percival and Wright, Miss Hobart (V.A.D.), and Miss Jarvis, our very capable interpreter. Dr. May was waiting in Kieff to receive them. All the rest of our *personnel* are now in Petrograd, and will come to England as soon as passports, &c., are arranged—a process which sometimes takes weeks. Miss Crowe is the sole exception, as she has elected to remain on under the Union of Zemstvos and return to the 92nd Hospital (the Podgaitza one) when it is reorganised.

The work at Podgaitza has from the first been difficult and strenuous. It is forty miles to the south-west of Tarnopol, almost in the trenches, and food was bad and scarce, while the staff had to sleep at such close quarters that not even a bag could be got into their rooms in addition to the beds. There were terrible rushes of badly wounded cases which had to be attended to and evacuated as quickly as possible, to make room for the next batch. Queer upside-down conditions prevailed: if a doctor wished to discharge a patient, the Sanitar (orderly) in charge had to be asked. He then convened a meeting of all the Sanitars, who gravely gave permission! One general meeting of Sanitars was held at which all nurses were abolished. This resolution never materialised, but the Russian nurses also had a general meeting and abolished matrons, in fact as well as in theory. The British armoured-car contingent have done amazing work, and Commander Locker-Lampson, their head, himself has performed prodigious acts of valour. One of the battalions of Russian women went up and lined a front trench, with no supports behind or beside them, and unaided took sixty German prisoners, losing about six wounded—but in spite of all this, the Russian soldiers remained stolid and unmoved, convinced by much propaganda that the Germans were their real and only friends, and that they must on no account fight them. Our nurses, however, met throughout with friendliness and politeness from them and from all the Russians, and in Petrograd, where food shortage and overcrowding make hospitality a really heroic act, a big Russian hospital received them with open arms, and showed them unbounded kindness, offering hospitality for an unlimited time, and refusing any payment.

W. H. Moberly.

Our Coventry Hut.

Readers of The Common Cause have responded well to the appeal for books for the Hut at Coventry. We now venture to suggest a few other needs, in case any of our readers have such things put away, and would be willing to send them:—

(1) A table for the centre of the rest room.

(2) A few large mats for the rest room, the colouring of which should harmonise with green and mauve.

(3) Some large screens to divide the room when classes are held.

(4) A large bookshelf.

Offers will be most gratefully received by Miss Acland-Hood, Verecroft, Spencer Road, Coventry.

"The Common Cause" Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already received	584	11	0
Miss Helen Martin		5	0
	£584	16	0

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

A "Common Cause" Hut in France.

We are most grateful to those of our readers who have already responded to our appeal for The Common Cause Hut for British Women War Workers in France. The thousands of women and girls who are going out with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and other organisations, need a place for rest and recreation even more than the workers at home, since they are in a strange land, working under new and often difficult conditions. We are most anxious to complete the Hut before the cold weather begins. Will all our readers help us?

Further donations should be sent to The Editor, The Common Cause, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	55	0	6
D. H. S., for piano "For Happiness"	25	0	0
Miss E. M. Aldis	1	0	0
Miss Lever	2	2	0
Miss C. H. Ordal		2	6
Miss K. F. Jones		10	0
Anonymous (Gt. Missenden) ...	1	0	0
Miss D. E. Brown		10	0
Miss A. E. Lloyd		5	0
Mrs. A. H. Worthington... ...	5	0	0
Miss Agnes McD. Teacher ...	10	0	0
Miss F. M. Harvey		10	0
Miss M. Fretwell		10	0
	£101	10	0

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital for Home and Foreign Service.

Further subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to August 9th, 1917	231,938	17	10
Further donations received to August 16th, 1917 :—			
"E. A."...		5	0
Miss Eliot Anderson		5	0
*Hull W.S.S., per Miss Hyde, Hon. Sec.	2	5	6
*Clerks in the Claims and Record Office, Kew, per Miss Janet Smith, to continue the "Claims and Record Office, Kew," bed (Villars-Cotteret) (2nd instalment)...	7	1	0
*Mrs. B. Dowson	5	0	0
*Sunderland W.S.S., per Mrs. Mundella, Hon. Treas. (July Collections): Workmen, Foremen, and Officials of Messrs. McColl & Pollock, Ltd. (2 months) (£8); Collected at 4, Belford Road: Mrs. Common (10s.), Miss J. Common (10s.), Mrs. Eliot Common (10s.), Mrs. Walford Common (5s.), Mrs. Garcia (2s. 6d.), A Friend (1s.); Household Economies at 4, Belford Road (6s.); Per Mrs. Mundella: Mrs. A. Johnson (10s.), Mrs. Eyres (5s.), Form VI., Bede Collegiate Girls' School (5s. 1d.), Miss A. Hedley (2s. 6d.), Miss M. Panton (2s. 6d.), S. H. C. (2s. 6d.), Mrs. A. Ritson (2s.), Mrs. Mundella (2s.), Mrs. Oliver (1s.), Nurse Hinch (1s.), Mrs. Dalrymple Smith (6s. 8d.), S. G. (5s.), Miss A. M. Rhind (5s.)... ...	12	14	9
*Anonymous		10	0
*Colonel James V. Davidson, V.D.	2	2	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. Portland Forge Co., Ltd. (£1 15s. 4d.), Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (70th con.) (£2 4s. 7d.)	3	19	11
*Two Members of the Glasgow W.S.S., to continue the "Vive la France" bed, Salonica, for 6 months	25	0	0
*Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon. Treas.: Part proceeds of "Lavender and Token Day," to continue 1st "Ascot" bed, Royaumont, 6 months (£25); 2nd "Ascot" bed, Corsica, 6 months (£25); 3rd "Ascot" bed (Fay Davis), Royaumont, 6 months (£25)...	75	0	0
Collections taken at Joint Intercessory Services in the Island of Sanday, Orkney, per the Rev. J. G. Ritchie	1	0	0
*Alex. Cupples, Esq.	2	0	0
*Mrs. Tiffany, of New York (monthly donation)	5	4	2
*Birkenhead and Dist. W.S.S., per Miss Mary Dalby, Hon. Treas., to continue "Birkenhead" bed, Royaumont ...	2	2	0
*Gateshead W.S.S., per Mrs. J. T. Dunn, Hon. Sec. (£2), Private donations (16s.) ...	2	16	0
*James McGavin, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss Anna T. Kellock		10	0
*Collected by three Ladies' Maids, per Robt. Paton, Esq., per Miss Jessie Dow, Canada	3	15	2
*Miss Edith Doyle, per Thomas Hewitt, Esq., to continue "Armitage Hewitt" bed Royaumont, for 6 months (3rd instalment)...	25	0	0
Rev. H. G. Roberts-Hay-Boyd...	5	0	0
*King's Sutton Suffrage Soc., per Mrs. E. Browne	3	12	6
*Anonymous	1	0	0
*Per Miss Isabelle Kerr, Local Hon. Sec. S.W.H., Greenock, 13th instal. from Waste Paper and Waste Material Scheme	100	0	0
*Miss H. Watson	2	0	0
*Miss Margaret Duguid, to continue "Scottie" bed, in Dr. McIlroy's Unit, Salonica (2nd instalment)...	25	0	6
*B.W.T.A., Edinburgh, per Miss Lockhart, Hon. Treas., to continue the "B.W.T.A." Motor Ambulance at Royaumont	25	0	0
The Women's Guild of Stromness Parish Church, per Mrs. Clark, Pres., per Mrs. Cursiter (to continue the "Orcadian" bed, Royaumont) ...	3	0	0
	£232,281	1	4

* Denotes further donations.

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Vive la France" (Salonica) (further 6 months)	Two Members of the Glasgow W.S.S.
"Ascot I." (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon. Treas.
"Ascot II." (Corsica) (further 6 months)	Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon. Treas.
"Ascot III." (Fay Davis) (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon. Treas.
"Armitage Hewitt" (Royaumont) (further 6 months, 3rd instalment) ...	Miss Edith Doyle, per Thomas Hewitt, Esq.
"Scottie" (Salonica) (further 6 months, 2nd instalment)	Miss Margaret Duguid, near Aberdeen.

Serbian Prisoners of War Fund.

Sixth List.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to July 26th, 1917	170	12	2
Further donations received to August 16th, 1917 :—			
Miss Florence M. Robertson ...		10	0
E. Walker, Esq.		2	2
Miss M. E. Thomson		5	0
	£173	9	2

Appreciation of the Work of the Scottish Women's Hospital.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, writes as follows to headquarters :—

Dear Madam,—I saw the appeal you kindly signed on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, asking for support for the Serbian Prisoners of war. We shall remain grateful for ever to the Scottish women.

Meanwhile, being in Great Britain, may I express once more the hope that your Committee will continue to help us in the future as in the past, and with so much success.

I also wish to take this opportunity to send a message of thanks on behalf of the country and the Government for everything that your Committee has done for us.—Yours truly,

(*Signed*) Nik P. Pashitch (Prime Minister).

WAR WORK FOR EVERYBODY.

Chestnut Hunting.

The occupations which without any stretch of imagination may be described as "war work" are getting so numerous that there will soon be hardly a man, woman, or child in the country unable to lend a hand at one of them. The collection of horse-chestnuts by school children is one of the latest developments. It has been found that they can be used for certain processes in the making of munitions, thereby releasing for human food a quantity of grain equal in weight to half that of the chestnuts substituted. Those who remember from their childhood the joy of hunting among fallen leaves for the round, green fruit, and disinterring from it beautiful, glossy chestnuts, will envy the children of 1917 their unique opportunity of combining patriotism and horse-chestnut hunting.

A Fruit-Picking Holiday.

For maturer persons whose work permits them to take a holiday in September, such as women workers in banks, shops, and offices, a suggestion has been put forward by the *Daily Express*. The fruit-picking season is then at its height, and even in normal years there is often a shortage of pickers, or else the market price of the fruit falls so low that it does not "pay to pick," as the growers say—that is, it does not pay if the pickers have to receive adequate wages—so much of the fruit rots in the orchards. We cannot afford such waste in war time, and it is proposed that town women should undertake to pick fruit in their holidays in return for board and lodging, the latter to be supplemented by tents, where other accommodation is not available. Women working on these terms would hardly be deserving of the reproaches levelled at the "pocket-money worker"; the fruit-growers are not likely to apply for them unless really short of labour, so they would not be taking anybody else's job; moreover, the work is of such a temporary kind that anyone relying on it for a livelihood would be in much the same position as the man who applied for charitable relief, and when asked his occupation, replied "snow shoveller."

Saving Fruit by Pulping.

There is another plan for dealing with surplus fruit already in operation, but this, requiring expensive plant, is managed by the Food Control Department on a big scale. Pulping stations capable of dealing with from 40 to 60 tons of fruit in twenty-four hours, have been established at various fruit-growing centres, and are already at work on the great quantities of plums which are becoming a glut in the market. The pulped fruit can be stored for a long time without harming it, and used for jam, &c., as sugar becomes available.

Autre Temps, Autre Mœurs.

There is a rather pathetic reminder of the difficulty felt by age in adapting itself to our fast changing ways in a resolution adopted by the Bucks Women's War Agricultural Committee, that "in view of the constant demand for short skirts from elderly and married part-time workers, who are not prepared to wear breeches and gaiters, this Committee urges the Board of Agriculture to supply at cost price waterproof skirts for such women." It is hard to change the habits and feelings of a lifetime, and the breeches which the "land girl" wears so jauntily as an emblem of freedom and adventure, may appear as a humiliation and an outrage to her sense of the fitness of things to the elderly country-woman who for the sake of the country has taken up work which at the back of her mind she very likely thinks of still as unsuited to normal times. Therefore it is to be hoped that other counties will follow the lead of Bucks, and that the Board of Agriculture is laying in a stock of nice, short, sensible, and, above all, waterproof skirts.

Forestry.

The first step has been taken in training women for the lighter part of this work: thirty of them are working in the woods near Beaconsfield, measuring timber, fixing the markings for the sawyers, and doing the clerical work necessary for a camp of Government lumbermen. As time goes on, it may be found that other parts of the work can also be done by women, and the training may be extended both as to numbers and scope.

LONDON UNITS OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24th, at 11.30 a.m.—Open-air Meeting at Shanklin—Speaker: Miss May Curwen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24th, at 6.30 p.m.—At the Cinema, Ryde—Speaker: Miss May Curwen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24th, at 8.30 p.m.—At Burlesque Entertainment on Pier, Shanklin—Speaker: Miss May Curwen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24th, at 8.30 p.m.—At the Royal Marine Hotel, Ventnor—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26th, at 9.0 p.m.—At Seaview Hotel, Ryde—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield.

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(Continued on page 244

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Continued from page 243]

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